Permission to constitute selection panel

2183. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a DoPT circular says that the Central Ministries must seek its permission to constitute a selection panel for appointment of institutional heads and nominating a DoPT official in the selection panel was mandatory;

(b) whether HRD Ministry has termed the circular as invalid on the ground that the DoPT cannot lay down selection procedures as several laws for Central and State Universities have clear guidelines on the subject; and

(c) if so, whether any step is being contemplated to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) In terms of DOP&T's OM No. 28/17/2004-EO(SM-II) dated 30.11.2005, each Ministry/Department was to constitute a Search-cum-Selection Committee for each post in the scale of pay of Rs. 18400-22400 or above in consultation with and as per guidelines of the DOP&T for appointments to be made in Autonomous (including Statutory) Institutions under that Ministry/Department. The Search-cum-Selection Committee was to include, *inter alia*, one representative of the DOP&T. On receipt of references, *inter alia* from the Ministry of HRD, the matter was reconsidered by the ACC and modified guidelines on the policy and procedure for appointments in Autonomous (including Statutory) Institution have been issued *vide* OM No. 28/13/2006/EO(SM-II) dated 3.7.2006. In the modified guidelines, the requirement of associating a representative of DOP&T has been done away with.

Corruption in the country

2184. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the top level corruption in the country's offcialdom remains rampant;

(b) if so, the details of such financial irregularities and swindling reported during the last two years; and

(c) the present status in each case, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the Central Vigilance Commision (CVC), it has recommended major penalty proceedings/ sanction for prosecution against 208 top-level officers (Joint Secretary and above) in the Central Government/General Managers in Public Sector Banks and up to two levels below Board level in the case of Central PSUs during the last two years *i.e.* from July 2004 to June, 2006.

(c) State-wise information is not maintained by the CVC.

Grant-in-aid to Assam

2185. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider hundred per cent Grant-in-Aid to Assam State considering the Annual onslaught of heavy rain followed by devastating flood in addition to its border area problems;

(b) whether Government would declare the construction of Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road bridge as National Project and release fund to complete it timely; and

(c) whether Government would include Tihu-Doomni-Dubankhata Road under Barpeta District and Mangaldai-Bhutiachang-Samrang Road under Darrang and Udalguri District which are Indo-Bhutan Roads in Assam under Eleventh Five Year Plan considering their importance from Defence strategy points of view including internal security in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Various aspects of Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road Bridge as a national project are under consideration.

(c) Improvement of Tihu Doomni Road leading to Indo-Bhutan foot hills from 7th to 25 Km. in Baska district is under progress. The work on Mangaldoi Bhutiachung Road has already been completed. Construction of some RCC bridges are however under progress.

National Knowledge Commission

2186. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stand of National Knowledge Commission on extension of